



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of

Atty. Docket

THOMAS B. SCHALK

PHA 23,955

Serial No. 09/222,073

Group Art Unit: 2641

Filed: DECEMBER 29, 1998

Examiner: A. AZAD

Honorable Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

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RESPONSE

Sir:

Enclosed is a reply in the above-identified application in response to the Office Action dated November 6, 2001.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kou (US Patent No. 5,303,234). Claims 14-21 are pending. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 14 is directed to a network, including a network head-end operable to generate a downstream frame, a plurality of user stations operable to access a first set of at least one contention time slot and a second set of at least one contention time slot, said first set of at least one contention time slot and said second set of at least one contention time slot for transmitting data to said network head-end, a downstream channel for transporting a downstream frame from said network head-end to said plurality of user stations; and an upstream channel for